

nevertheless, "and/or" has now been changed to "or".

Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 10-12 have been rejected as obvious under Section 103 from Katoh in view of JP '049. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully repeat by reference the arguments of record. The rejection is unjustified. Recitations in the claims have been improperly ignored, as has applicants' presumptively accurate disclosure. The action of the PTO is contrary to accepted patent law.

Applicants again respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn for the reasons of record.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected as obvious under Section 103 from Katoh in view of JP '049 and further in view of JP '739. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully repeat by reference the arguments of record. The rejection is unjustified for the reasons noted above and previously. Applicants' claims define non-obvious subject matter. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

As regards that portion of the Office Action entitled "Response to Arguments", applicants respectfully note as follows:

The first paragraph under such heading at the bottom of page 5 sets up a straw man. Applicants have always argued against the combination. To effectively argue against the combination, one must first point out the deficiencies in the references individually, which applicants have done. As regards the combination, applicants for example pointed out at the bottom of page 3 of the reply filed August 5, 1999:

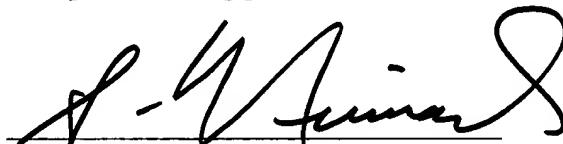
The PTO has ignored the fact that [the references] have no relation with one another, and there is nothing which suggests or otherwise makes obvious any combination of these citations.

Applicants have argued against the combination, but the PTO has not answered or rebutted applicants' arguments as required by the MPEP. Why does not the PTO give effect what is stated in applicants' specification as the law requires?

Respectfully submitted,

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